

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Blessed be you, loving God, for when flowers fall and days shorten, your love neither withers nor fades. Keep watch over us as we go through the gate of autumn towards the cold and dark of winter.

“To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven” – reveal the meaning of each day you give us, and trusting you, may we never cease to praise and thank you.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Saturday 12th September was the **Suffolk Historic Churches Bike Ride**. Unfortunately we did not have any riders from Ashbocking this year but the church was manned to greet visiting cyclists and offer refreshment. However, by the end of the day we had had only one visitor, a lone rider from Barham. This of course, was a disappointment but it did give us a chance to give the church a good clean ready for the Sunday service.

It is evident that, with the bat and mouse population as well as numerous spiders, the church needs a thorough clean on a regular basis and this should not be down to just one or two willing people. We only have one service a month and it would be helpful to have a rota of cleaners, so if you would be willing to take a turn occasionally, please let me know.

On Sunday 13 September, Catherine led a service about ‘**Understanding God’s forgiveness**’. She read us a Betjeman poem ‘Blame the Vicar’ which was much enjoyed by all. It was a communion service which allowed us to use our new altar cloth.

Our next **coffee-morning** is at 9 Nelson Close on Friday 2nd October 10:30, hosted by Sue and Mike Surridge. Everyone is welcome,

especially any newcomers who would like to meet other people in the village.

Harvest Festival in Ashbocking church is on Sunday 11th October at 11 o'clock. Donations of food will go to FIND or a local nursing home. You are invited to bring an item which represents your life so that this can be celebrated (and blessed if you wish). It could be something which has special meaning to you or something that represents your work, hobbies or home-life.

The evening Christian discussion group is continuing on a fortnightly basis and if you would like details of this please contact Catherine Beaumont or John Pollard. (Phone numbers inside the front cover.) The day time group has reconvened on fortnightly Wednesday mornings, now at the Gaughts'. Please contact Jan and Jon Bates, 892605.

Linda Pollard

ASHBOCKING HOMEGROUP

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 10.00am till 12.00

We meet to study scripture, to pray & to discover together "that for which Christ Jesus has taken hold of us". (Philippians 3:12)

Oct. Wednesday 7th and 21st

Nov. Wednesday 4th and 18th

Dec. Wednesday 2nd

At Manor Farm, Ashbocking IP6 9JH

Call Jan or Jon Bates for more information: 892605

CLOPTON

Tig's (Barry Pearce's) 35th birthday Memorial Bike Show on 6th September was really well-attended. There were dozens of bikes on show competing for eight trophies, including best classic, best chop etc. There were live bands and other attractions. Over £700 was raised (still more to come in) and this will be shared between SOBS (Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide) and the Battersea Dogs Home.

Peter Driver gave a very interesting talk on 11th September entitled "It's a Grave Business". He kept everyone amused and informed with his wealth of knowledge. I'm sure that people who listened to him will be looking carefully when they go into a church or visit a graveyard. Most of the examples he showed were in Suffolk. £62 was sent to East Anglian Children's Hospice.

The Hobbies and Chat morning is on Wednesday 7th October from 10am until noon. Come and join us! The October coffee-morning will be on 21st at the village hall and will be hosted by Julie Gittoes. It runs from 10am until noon and everyone is very welcome.

We only had thirteen cyclists visit the church for the SHCT Cycle Ride, a lot less than in previous years.

Doris Main

Church cleaning

Doris Main

Church flowers

Beryl Birchmore

OTLEY

This year we are celebrating Harvest Festival with a family service in the barn at Warrens Farm (by kind permission of Ian and Alyson Chilvers) at 11 o'clock on 4th October. The Scouts will be on parade and the service will be followed by a simple bring-and-share lunch in the barn. Everyone, including uniformed groups and their families, are warmly welcomed. Please bring any savoury dish that could go on the sharing table. We will provide yummy muffins and tea and coffee. If you would like transport to the barn please let us know. Please ring Ruth Farnhill on 890543 for further information. As well as giving thanks for the harvest, we shall celebrate community life (remembering the Big Lunch), so we look forward to seeing lots of people there.

The Sponsored Bike Ride started on a rainy morning, but the day gradually improved and the sun came out. Riding for Otley were

James Hall and Phil Sweet. 16 people checked in at the church so we hope a good amount of money was raised throughout the county for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

The Village Show attracted more support this year and many people attended in the afternoon to see the exhibits and - hopefully - collect their prizes. The Ling Cup, presented by Rita Ling years ago, now has no more room for winners' names to be engraved, so it has been re-plated with silver and Brian Childs presented it back to Russell, thanking him for all the support he and Rita have given the show over a very long time. Congratulations to the prize-winners, and to the organising committee.

Congratulations, too, to Olivia Bullock, who took part in the London2Cambridge Challenge. Four friends - and she was the only girl - ran in relay, Olivia running the last leg of 29 km in to Cambridge in 3 hours 2 minutes, with the boys accompanying her at the end. Well done! The whole route was 100 km and took 10 hours 17 minutes. Between them they raised £1,046 for Cancer Research UK, including generous donations from neighbours in the village, for which they all thank you. Olivia is now taking up a place at Cardiff University to study diagnostic radiography.

Gardening Club resumes on 5th October at 7.30pm, when Richard Ford will be speaking about container gardening. Richard is a retired nursery owner who has won many medals for displays at horticultural shows and gold at Chelsea. At the start of another season new members will be very welcome. The next drop-in coffee morning will be held on Thursday 22nd October at Lavender House, Otley Green, the home of David and Tess Papworth, where everybody will be welcome.

We are delighted that Jimmy Wightman is home from hospital at last after his accident, and we wish him well as he continues to get better.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary

- 1st Oct.** Friendship Club - members' poems
15th Oct. Friendship Club - 'In search of the Incas' - Chris Parfitt
23rd Oct. TOPS - 'An Evening of Entertainment' incl. scenes from "The Vicar of Dibley" and "Keeping up Appearances". Tickets £15 (incl. dinner) from Joan Parish (890715). Bring your own drink.

Church Flowers Gerry Senior/Tessa Brown

Cleaning Rota Mary Hunt/Ruthie Bullock

Sidepersons' Rota:

4th October	11.00am	Harvest Festival	Karin Upson
18th October	9.30am	Holy Communion	Ruthie Bullock
25th October	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Betty David

Building Work on Otley Church

Following our quinquennial inspection in 2013, several areas requiring repair were identified. The cost of this work is substantial, but we have secured grants from The Ganzoni Trust, The Scarfe Foundation, Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and Otley Church Preservation Trust. We are also using money from the Fosdike legacy. Work commenced on 1st September, and is scheduled to be completed by 13th October. We hope it has caused minimal disruption to visitors.

SWILLAND

SHCT Bike Ride - The morning was wet but by about midday the rain stopped and it was quite bright for the afternoon. We had the fewest cyclists ever visiting Swilland - just six all day! Gill Reidy was Swilland's only cyclist and she visited over 30 churches, which was a great effort. Thank you to all those who manned the church, Gill Reidy, Gina Wilden, Sam Salter, Liz Barraclough and June Frost.

Christmas Draw - Tickets are now available. This year it is on the 2nd Saturday in December, the 12th, in Witnesham village hall. Please help us to sell the tickets. Nearer the time we shall be pleased to receive gifts towards the prize list. During November please contact Gill Reidy for tickets or to donate prizes as I shall be away.

Ann Kent

Flower Rota:

4th - 11th October	Gill Reidy
18th - 25th October	Ann Kent
1st - 8th November	Margo Barker

RAINFALL – August

The first two weeks of August were dry and sunny but on the 18th we had an inch of rain over two days and the rest of the month was unsettled giving us a total of 2.75 inches of rainfall. Fortunately we had just finished our wheat harvest before the rain came but many other farmers hadn't managed to complete their combining.

Before we had combines, crops were cut with a binder. The sheaves were tied up with string and then stood up against one other at an angle to form a tent (in Suffolk a shock, or in Norfolk, a stook).

The straw at that time was much longer and was used for animal bedding and for thatching the stacks that were made up from the sheaves. In a wet August the ears of the sheaves would sprout and we had to wait until the sheaves dried out before they could be carted. Sometimes the shocks had to be pulled apart and reformed. Another problem was when a high wind and rain flattened the growing crop. Lifters were then fitted to the binder. There was an old saying, "Layed barley makes a man, layed wheat breaks a man" – flattened barley yielded well, whereas flattened wheat didn't ripen properly and so wasn't worth much.

Russell Ling

Suffolk Singers Opera Choruses Workshop - directed by Claire Weston on Sunday 18 October at Framlingham College 09.30-17.00 - Adult £17, under 19s FREE Followed by FREE public performance at 16.30.

Have you ever fancied humming along to the humming chorus, singing along with the Hebrew slaves, striking out the Anvil chorus, or weeping along to Dido's lament? Suffolk Singers are delighted to invite you along to our fifth Choral Workshop – famous opera choruses. And who better to lead the fun than our very own musical director, former principal soprano at ENO, Claire Weston. We are keeping the price of the workshop at £17, to include the loan of all music, expert professional tuition, tea and coffee throughout the day and our celebrated cakes in the interval between the rehearsal and the performance. It will be helpful, but not essential, if participants have a little previous experience of singing with a choir or reading music, but if you've never tried anything like this before, come along and have a go. You will be given lots of support.

On-line booking is available at <http://tinyurl.com/http-OperaChorusWorkshop2015>. To reserve a place or find out more information please ring Alison Bestow [01473 625070](tel:01473625070) or email alison.bestow@gmail.com.

Smile Lines

Signs of our times? When you know what they meant, but...!

Toilet out of order. Please use floor below.

In a Laundromat: Automatic Washing Machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

In a London department store: Bargain Basement upstairs.

In an office: Would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please bring it back, or further steps will be taken.

In an office: After the tea break, staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Notice in health food shop window: Closed due to illness.



EDITH CAVELL

Edith Cavell was a British nurse in charge of a hospital in Belgium during the First World War. She saved the lives of soldiers from both sides and helped Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium during the First World War, for which she was arrested.

Her strong Christian beliefs led her to help all those who needed it: she said, "I can't stop while there are lives to be saved."

Despite international pleas for mercy, she was shot by a German firing squad. The night before her execution, she told the Revd. Gahan, the Anglican chaplain who gave her Holy Communion: "Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

In the Anglican Church, 12th October is her commemoration day. This year Nurse Cavell is featured on a special £5 coin to mark the centenary of the war.



PROPER POORLY

In the Middle Ages certain saints were associated with particular ailments, and became known as patron saints for people suffering from those illnesses. Can you guess who you might have asked to pray for you...

If you had toothache?

Dentista Apollonia Peter

If you had a migraine?

Aspren Aspirin Anthony

If you had a sore throat?

Blaise Flannel Godelina

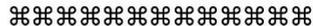
If you had sore knees?

Neale Gangulphus Sebaldis

Worst of all, if you got the plague...

Agricola Adrian Quirinius

Answers at the bottom of the page.



Doctor, Doctor I feel like I'm biscuits!

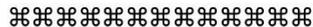
You mean the square ones?

Yes!

The ones you put butter on?

Yes!

Oh, you're crackers!



Answers: 1. Apollonia 2. Aspren (honestly!) 3. Both Blaise and Godelina 4. Gangulphus 5. all of them

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